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Letter dated 20 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the translation into English of a note verbale dated 28 January 2001 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hadi **Nejad-Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Note verbale dated 28 January 2001 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran and has the honour to state the following.

1. On 12 January 2001, at 1230 hours, one Iranian commercial vessel, called *Borhan*, was intercepted, on its way from Kuwait to Abadan, and robbed by an Iraqi frigate. In the course of the attack, four bullets hit the cabin of the vessel and a quantity of clothes and food were stolen.

2. On 8 October 2000, at 2000 hours, one Iranian fishing launch, captained by Amir Poormoarefi, and engaged in fishing inside the Iranian fishing zone, in the Bousseef area (the northern Persian Gulf), came under armed attack by an Iraqi vessel. As a result, one of the Iranian sailors of the launch, Abdulhossein Poormoarefi, was injured.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, lodging its strong protest against such acts of aggression, which run counter to principles of good-neighbourly relations and international law, holds the Government of the Republic of Iraq responsible for those acts and their consequences, and reserves its right, among others, to seek compensation for the damage sustained. It is to be recalled that the continuation of such acts of aggression affects adversely the process of normalization of relations between the two countries, jeopardizes the safety of navigation in the Persian Gulf and results in the intensification and prolongation of the presence of foreigners in the region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.